

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Yager during the October 6, 2010 telephone interview. Applicant's summary of the substance of the telephone interview is discussed below.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-12, 14, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP-A-61-8544 to Hatayama et al. (hereinafter "Hatayama"). The Office Action, in paragraph 6, rejects claims 6, 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatayama. The Office Action, in paragraphs 7-10, rejects claim 2, 9 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatayama in view of one of U.S. Patent No. 3,940,001 to Haefner et al. (hereinafter "Haefner"), U.S. Patent No. 4,196,825 to Kincaid, U.S. Patent No. 4,943,780 to Redding and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0030192 to Redmond. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is unclear to Applicant how Hatayama could be considered, in the previous Office Action, to not teach all of the features positively recited in independent claim 1, but, based on the amendments to claim 1, now Hatayama is applied as allegedly teaching all of those features.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a linear projecting portion that extends straight along an entire axial length of the laminated tube in an axial direction; and a portion of the laminated tube not covered by the projecting portion, that extends straight along an entire axial length of the tube in an axial direction, wherein the portion of the laminated tube not covered by the projecting portion forms a first portion of an outermost surface at a first outer

radial dimension of the laminated tube, the projecting portion forms a second portion of the outermost surface at a second outer radial dimension of the laminated tube, and the second outer radial dimension is larger than the first outer radial dimension to make the projecting portion define a radially outermost portion of the laminated tube that extends radially beyond the portion of the laminated tube not covered by the projecting portion. Hatayama at least fails to teach this combination of features.

Hatayama teaches, at Figs. 1-4, a relief pattern band 22. No part of relief pattern band 22 is an outer radial dimension that is larger than outer radial dimension of a portion of the laminated tube in Hatayama not covered by the relief pattern band to make any alleged projecting portion in Hatayama extend radially beyond the portion of the laminated tube not covered by the alleged projecting portion.

Further, as is explained throughout Applicant's disclosure, the positively-recited structure of the combination of features found in claim 1 is intended to address specific shortfalls in the prior art. The structure of Hatayama specifically differs from that recited in the pending claims, and Hatayama does not recognize the benefit achieved by the recited structure.

Applicant's representative discussed the distinct structure of the pending claims, and its differences from any structure disclosed in Hatayama, with Examiner Yager during the October 6 telephone interview. The Examiner expressed ongoing concern that the claims, as written, could reasonably be interpreted as being disclosed by the Hatayama reference. Applicant's representative strongly traversed the Examiner's assertions in this regard.

Without conceding the assertions raised by the Examiner, either in the Office Action, or during the October 6 telephone interview, the claims are amended to clarify the feature of the projecting portion in a manner that clearly distinguishes the subject matter of the pending

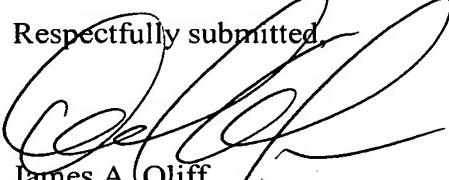
claims over any, even broad, interpretation of the Hatayama reference. In other words, Hatayama simply has no portion corresponding to the recited projecting portion.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Hatayama cannot reasonably be considered to teach, and even in combination with the other applied references, cannot reasonably be considered to have rendered obvious, the combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 1. Further, Hatayama, alone or in combination with the other applied references, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have rendered obvious, the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 2-15, 17 and 18 for at least the dependence of these claims on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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